

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,435

Nocturne Hall presents an original audio
drama intended only for an adult audience.

2

00:00:08,806 --> 00:00:19,280

Devils walk among us. Some just a mile north of
the White House. Whether conjured or elected,

3

00:00:19,280 --> 00:00:25,000

they prey on the innocent all
the same. Most won't even listen,

4

00:00:25,000 --> 00:00:36,800

so folks knock on the one door in the district
of crime who will. Dupont Investigations.

5

00:00:36,800 --> 00:00:42,980

[Music: I never thought my heart would mend]

[Music: You taught me how to love again]

6

00:00:42,980 --> 00:00:49,620

[Music: It's you and me until the end]

[Music: Oh, we'll paint this whole town red]

7

00:00:49,620 --> 00:01:03,040

[Music: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

[Music: Just the devils, the devils of Dupont]

8

00:01:03,040 --> 00:01:08,180

This is The Scourge from Carthage Part 5.

9

00:01:08,180 --> 00:01:12,000

[DRAMATIC MUSIC] [ELEVATOR DINGS.] Stop, thief! [FIRE DOOR SLAMS.]

10

00:01:12,000 --> 00:01:13,999

Lilah, I'm on him.

11

00:01:13,999 --> 00:01:17,510

[THE FIRE DOOR OPENS. STAIRWELL ECHO OF HURRIED DESCENT.]

12

00:01:17,510 --> 00:01:23,520

Rhodes, you're making a huge mistake. [PISTOL FIRES TWICE] Holy hell!
Are you nuts? Take another shot at me,

13

00:01:23,520 --> 00:01:27,320

pal, and I'll plug your ass with that gat! [A DOWNSTAIRS FIRE DOOR
OPENS AND CLOSES]

14

00:01:27,320 --> 00:01:29,833

Dammitt. Where's he off to now? [A FIRE DOOR UPSTAIRS OPENS.]

15

00:01:29,833 --> 00:01:31,537

Nigel! Are you alright?

16

00:01:31,537 --> 00:01:32,800

I'm fine, Lilah.

17

00:01:32,800 --> 00:01:34,360

Should we phone the police?

18

00:01:34,360 --> 00:01:37,920

I'm sure someone already has. Besides, we're
trying to keep your name out of the papers.

19

00:01:37,920 --> 00:01:42,160

No book is worth your life. Especially the ramblings of dear Phillip.

C'mon,

20

00:01:42,160 --> 00:01:43,568

I'll fix you a drink.

21

00:01:43,568 --> 00:01:45,200

It's not even noon yet.

22

00:01:45,200 --> 00:01:47,520

Someone just took a shot at you!

23

00:01:47,520 --> 00:01:54,480

Not just anyone. Abe Rhodes. [THE FIRE DOOR CLOSSES] [ELEVATOR DINGS]

24

00:01:54,480 --> 00:01:55,855

It all happened so fast.

25

00:01:55,855 --> 00:02:01,040

You two have anything to do with that nogoodnik I just saw running like a bat out of hell through the Promenade Foyer?

26

00:02:01,040 --> 00:02:02,750

I'm afraid so.

27

00:02:02,750 --> 00:02:04,443

Wait, you don't think it was Abe?

28

00:02:04,443 --> 00:02:08,400

I barely saw 'em. Mrs. Barr, you probably got a better look at him.

29

00:02:08,400 --> 00:02:14,159

He was striking, olive-skinned, chestnut hair, I'd guess late thirties

or early forties.

30

00:02:14,159 --> 00:02:17,959
That's definitely not Mr. Rhodes.

31

00:02:17,959 --> 00:02:19,959
No, sounds more like Calder Evans.

32

00:02:19,960 --> 00:02:25,200
That's possible. I'd never met Mr. Evans before,
and the thief said he was a friend of Phillip's.

33

00:02:25,200 --> 00:02:30,320
Asked if I'd received his manuscript, and as soon
as I pointed at the fresh parcel on the buffet,

34

00:02:30,320 --> 00:02:36,880
the handsome devil snatched it and bolted toward the stairwell.
Heavens. After all the times he's

35

00:02:36,880 --> 00:02:41,560
mooched on Phillip's allowance, now he has the gall to rob me of the
last part of

36

00:02:41,560 --> 00:02:44,734
Phillip. Do you have a piece, Nigel?

37

00:02:44,734 --> 00:02:49,392
Not on me. I'd have followed him down the stairs if I did. Why?

38

00:02:49,392 --> 00:02:51,271
Cause I'd like to shoot him dead myself.

39

00:02:51,271 --> 00:02:55,480
Understandable, Mrs. Barr. But I'm not confident whether it was him I

saw

40

00:02:55,480 --> 00:03:01,880

downstairs. He was too far off and galloping fast. Where's your husband, may I ask?

41

00:03:01,880 --> 00:03:06,680

He's in the bedroom nursing one of the worst hangovers of his life. Some men are

42

00:03:06,680 --> 00:03:09,530

completely useless when they're needed the most.

43

00:03:09,530 --> 00:03:14,045

It's probably a good thing he's in bed. Our thief took a shot at me in the stairwell.

44

00:03:14,045 --> 00:03:15,400

Criminy.

45

00:03:15,400 --> 00:03:18,360

Do you suppose Irma could have sent someone to steal it back?

46

00:03:18,360 --> 00:03:19,922

She is dastardly.

47

00:03:19,922 --> 00:03:23,147

Ms. Irma Krause? That's whose name was on the parcel.

48

00:03:23,147 --> 00:03:26,961

It would be a bold move, but so were those letters from her lawyer.

49

00:03:26,961 --> 00:03:29,818

And he might return it into her hands.

50

00:03:29,818 --> 00:03:35,107

I don't know much about unpublished manuscripts, but they say possession is nine-tenths of the law.

51

00:03:35,107 --> 00:03:41,080

Sure, she might claim it's hers and sell it outright. Cutting out the estate altogether.

52

00:03:41,080 --> 00:03:42,845

She was keen to sell it.

53

00:03:42,845 --> 00:03:50,920

Who would buy Phillip's mad ramblings? Last we spoke about his work; he was talking all manner of gibberish--utter nonsense.

54

00:03:50,920 --> 00:03:53,623

I often fibbed excuses to clear the line.

55

00:03:53,623 --> 00:04:01,320

Believe it or not, there's a market for this New Age religious literature. I can't say how much, but enough to keep these quacks in business.

56

00:04:01,320 --> 00:04:03,906

But is it worth a murder rap?

57

00:04:03,906 --> 00:04:05,906

Maybe your goon fired a warning shot?

58

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:07,962

Who's to say?

59

00:04:07,962 --> 00:04:11,374

You're still here to talk about it, so I'd guess it was a mean bark.

60

00:04:11,374 --> 00:04:13,160

I'm sure glad it didn't bite.

61

00:04:13,160 --> 00:04:14,315

Me too.

62

00:04:14,315 --> 00:04:16,840

So, who's this other gentleman you spoke of?

63

00:04:16,840 --> 00:04:24,840

A man named Abe Rhodes. He says he had something personal to discuss with you about Phillip.

64

00:04:24,840 --> 00:04:27,980

Odd. Phillip never mentioned him. Where's he now?

65

00:04:27,980 --> 00:04:35,080

I'm not sure where he went. Must have left. Although, I can't imagine why. I told him to

66

00:04:35,080 --> 00:04:36,996

wait for me while I phoned Torsten.

67

00:04:36,996 --> 00:04:38,720

Maybe someone gave him trouble.

68

00:04:38,720 --> 00:04:45,600

Sure. The desk clerk was rather cold to him. Mr. Rhodes said his cousin is on staff as a bellman.

69

00:04:45,600 --> 00:04:50,160

Delivered champagne on Thursday. That's how he knew the Barrs were guests here.

70

00:04:50,160 --> 00:04:54,240

You should try to get something out of the bellman about where we can find his cousin.

71

00:04:54,240 --> 00:04:55,380

What about you?

72

00:04:55,380 --> 00:05:00,000

I'll pay a visit to the address Mr. Evans provided in Eastern Market.

73

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:01,360

You ought to take my piece.

74

00:05:01,360 --> 00:05:02,390

Won't need it.

75

00:05:02,390 --> 00:05:03,160

Are you nuts?

76

00:05:03,160 --> 00:05:07,520

If he was dumb enough to give us a legit location, he's too innocent to worry about.

77

00:05:07,520 --> 00:05:08,565

And if not?

78

00:05:08,565 --> 00:05:10,720

Then I'll wind up on someone else's front steps.

79

00:05:10,720 --> 00:05:14,960

I hope you're right, Mr. Somersby. Although, if Mr. Evans is in any way

80

00:05:14,960 --> 00:05:19,440

connected to Phillip's death, I hope you would consider adopting a harsher tone.

81

00:05:19,440 --> 00:05:25,680

Don't you worry, Mrs. Barr. Still, at some point, I think he tried to help Phillip. However, it may

82

00:05:25,680 --> 00:05:27,750

have done more harm than good.

83

00:05:27,750 --> 00:05:28,920

What do you mean?

84

00:05:28,920 --> 00:05:34,800

It's too premature to say. I'll go check out his address. Nige, let's meet back at my office

85

00:05:34,800 --> 00:05:35,809

in an hour.

86

00:05:35,809 --> 00:05:50,402

Alright. [SUBTLE NOIR MUSIC]

87

00:05:50,402 --> 00:05:54,474

[A GLASS AND WOODEN DOOR OPENS AND SHUTS.] There you are, but how did you get into my inner office?

88

00:05:54,474 --> 00:05:56,080

The door was open.

89

00:05:56,080 --> 00:05:58,560

I may have left in a hurry, but I always lock up.

90

00:05:58,560 --> 00:06:02,360

You take Calder's journal with you?

No, I left it right next to the--

91

00:06:02,360 --> 00:06:04,913

Telephone, I remember. But it isn't here.

92

00:06:04,913 --> 00:06:05,960

You kidding me?

93

00:06:05,960 --> 00:06:07,553

No games.

94

00:06:07,553 --> 00:06:09,000

And they didn't break the glass.

95

00:06:09,000 --> 00:06:10,830

Looks like a professional heist, alright.

96

00:06:10,830 --> 00:06:12,000

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

97

00:06:12,000 --> 00:06:14,866

What, that Calder Evans used to be a thief?

98

00:06:14,866 --> 00:06:16,866

And I don't suppose you found him at home?

99

00:06:16,866 --> 00:06:20,520

What at the United Food Stores
he sent me to? Not a chance.

100

00:06:20,520 --> 00:06:22,140

He doesn't live above it or something--

101

00:06:22,140 --> 00:06:24,080

Nothing of the sort. Even waving a Lincoln

102

00:06:24,080 --> 00:06:28,120

in their faces, nobody'd ever heard of him or anyone matching his
description.

103

00:06:28,120 --> 00:06:29,780

So where do you think he's holed up?

104

00:06:29,780 --> 00:06:34,852

I haven't a clue, but he's the only one we know after both
Phillip's manuscript and his war journal.

105

00:06:34,852 --> 00:06:36,774

Still, there's something that doesn't add up.

106

00:06:36,774 --> 00:06:39,114

And I thought you were the one with a new theory.

107

00:06:39,114 --> 00:06:41,120

[TELEPHONE RINGS]

108

00:06:41,120 --> 00:06:42,948

You gonna answer it this time?

109

00:06:42,948 --> 00:06:45,502

Good thing I didn't have it disconnected.

110

00:06:45,502 --> 00:06:48,336

[TELEPHONE RINGS] [PICK UP THE RECEIVER]

111

00:06:48,336 --> 00:06:50,120

Dupont Investigations.

112

00:06:50,120 --> 00:06:52,516

May I please speak with Mr. Somersby?

113

00:06:52,516 --> 00:06:53,440

You've found him.

114

00:06:53,440 --> 00:06:56,853

Hello, sir. My name is Mr. Cornelius Steeples.

115

00:06:56,853 --> 00:07:00,888

Holy smokes. Hello, Mr. Steeples. I've got Mr. Clemmons right beside me.

116

00:07:00,888 --> 00:07:07,080

Oh, good. My daughter, Lilah, informed me he's just been shot at. Would you mind if I spoke with him?

117

00:07:07,080 --> 00:07:10,800

Not at all, sir. I'll put him on. [PASSING RECEIVER]

118

00:07:10,800 --> 00:07:12,306

Hello, Mr. Steeples.

119

00:07:12,306 --> 00:07:14,800

Oh, son. I'm so glad to hear your voice.

120

00:07:14,800 --> 00:07:20,400

The thought of losing another person to this damn cult. Why it would be too much to bear.

121

00:07:20,400 --> 00:07:24,200

Thank you, sir, but I can't say for certain their at fault for Phillip's demise--

122

00:07:24,200 --> 00:07:30,440

Come now. Lilah told me enough about how they got their hooks deep into my boy. We keep waiting for

123

00:07:30,440 --> 00:07:36,280

some fancy attorney to arrive from Raleigh with a phony copy of Phillip's last will and testament,

124

00:07:36,280 --> 00:07:41,680

willing all his assets to that damn Washington Lodge of Theosophy.

125

00:07:41,680 --> 00:07:43,605

Do you expect such a thing to arrive?

126

00:07:43,605 --> 00:07:51,160

I already asked my general counsel to explore options for filing something to squash it. I just can't figure out what

127

00:07:51,160 --> 00:07:55,960

other interest they would have in Phillip besides his trust. Why I'd wager, there are

128

00:07:55,960 --> 00:07:58,525

over half a million dollars in this account.

129

00:07:58,525 --> 00:08:06,323

We haven't uncovered any ploy for money apart from selling his manuscript. However, that suspect sent it back to Lilah this morning. So,

130

00:08:06,323 --> 00:08:12,360

it's murky as to her motives. We're still considering whether she had it stolen back, but after interviewing

131

00:08:12,360 --> 00:08:17,520

her, money doesn't seem a likely motivator. She's pretty well-off in her own right.

132

00:08:17,520 --> 00:08:21,640

I didn't call to burden your investigation. It sounds like you're knee-deep in the thick

133

00:08:21,640 --> 00:08:28,520

of it. I just heard the bastards took a shot at you, and it got me piping hot. Son,

134

00:08:28,520 --> 00:08:32,800

you were a good friend to Phillip, and if they'd harmed you--well, god help them.

135

00:08:32,800 --> 00:08:36,480

Thank you for your concern, sir. They got what they were after,

136

00:08:36,480 --> 00:08:39,130

so I don't expect any more shootouts.

137

00:08:39,130 --> 00:08:41,840

I pray not. I wish Phillip would have turned

138

00:08:41,840 --> 00:08:47,960

to you for help instead of these people. I hope we soon know the full extent of their ploy.

139

00:08:47,960 --> 00:08:51,360

Mr. Somersby believes we're close to uncovering the truth, sir.

140

00:08:51,360 --> 00:08:55,840

Good. I'm glad you recruited some local talent. Sounds like you'll need him against

141

00:08:55,840 --> 00:09:01,080

these scheming spivs. Whatever it is these lunatics were after, I want you to know,

142

00:09:01,080 --> 00:09:06,080

son, if there's anyone who can stop them, our faith is in you now, Nigel.

143

00:09:06,080 --> 00:09:07,507

I appreciate your confidence.

144

00:09:07,507 --> 00:09:10,900

Phillip may have had his faults, but he was a good lad. You know that.

145

00:09:10,900 --> 00:09:12,440

Of course I do, sir.

146

00:09:12,440 --> 00:09:17,440

Right. Well, I won't take up any more of your time. Take care, son. I don't expect we'll

147

00:09:17,440 --> 00:09:19,977

anticipate you home by Easter Sunday.

148

00:09:19,977 --> 00:09:23,448

No, I expect it will take a bit longer than Sunday, I'm afraid.

149

00:09:23,448 --> 00:09:25,080

Understood. Goodbye, son.

150

00:09:25,080 --> 00:09:28,360
Goodbye, sir. [HANGS UP THE RECEIVER]

151
00:09:28,360 --> 00:09:33,040
Nice of Mr. Steeples to call. I'm sure he's
eager for some answers. Did you find out

152
00:09:33,040 --> 00:09:36,160
anything more about Mr. Rhodes? His cousin wouldn't give out his

153
00:09:36,160 --> 00:09:39,090
number. He was more than a bit mistrustful.

154
00:09:39,090 --> 00:09:42,200
Understandable. So, did he give us anything?

155
00:09:42,200 --> 00:09:47,640
Sure. Rhodes plays alto sax on Saturday nights at Republic Gardens on
U Street. Do you know it?

156
00:09:47,640 --> 00:09:51,880
I know of it. I haven't been there personally, although I hear they
welcome our kind.

157
00:09:51,880 --> 00:09:56,160
Who, whites? Well sure, them too, but I meant the funny kind.

158
00:09:56,160 --> 00:09:59,400
Oh. Who knows, we might end up having quite a time.

159
00:09:59,400 --> 00:10:01,558
I don't feel much like celebrating.

160

00:10:01,558 --> 00:10:04,760

We're close, Nige. So very close.

161

00:10:04,760 --> 00:10:08,280

You keep saying that while our client's been robbed, I've been shot at,

162

00:10:08,280 --> 00:10:12,800

and Phillip's estate is poised to lose all its jack to the New Age nuthouse.

163

00:10:12,800 --> 00:10:15,112

Who seeks shall find.

164

00:10:15,112 --> 00:10:17,393

If that's another gosh-darn Sophocles quote--

165

00:10:17,393 --> 00:10:26,340

Ah, drop the act. You know he's growing on you. Besides, No enemy is worse than bad advice.

166

00:10:26,340 --> 00:10:32,963

[UPTEMPO JAZZ MUSIC] [APPLAUSE] [ALLEY STAGE DOOR OPENS]

167

00:10:32,963 --> 00:10:38,800

Haha. Barry got some nice licks in for sure on that last one. Makin' that horn sing. Ohh,

168

00:10:38,800 --> 00:10:44,320

hey, fellas, lemme catch up with you in a few. These hotshots need a word.

169

00:10:44,320 --> 00:10:48,680

Evening, Mr. Rhodes. Pardon, but I never got your name, sir.

170

00:10:48,680 --> 00:10:52,440

Nigel Clemmons. And this is my associate, Mr. Torsten Somersby.

171

00:10:52,440 --> 00:10:54,000

Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Rhodes.

172

00:10:54,000 --> 00:10:57,437

Nigel. Wow, that Nigel?

173

00:10:57,437 --> 00:10:58,202

I'm sorry?

174

00:10:58,202 --> 00:11:02,033

Phillip told me you two were close back in his Zeugma days.

175

00:11:02,033 --> 00:11:03,480

Look, whatever Phillip told you--

176

00:11:03,480 --> 00:11:08,960

It's alright. I ain't one to judge. If you did a lap inside, you'd find plenty of sweet nellys,

177

00:11:08,960 --> 00:11:10,780

and we're playing our hearts out for 'em.

178

00:11:10,780 --> 00:11:13,120

Sorry to catch you on your break--

179

00:11:13,120 --> 00:11:17,240

It's no trouble. I expected you'd turn up at some point after I left Mr. Clemmons high and

180

00:11:17,240 --> 00:11:19,217
dry this morning at the Mayflower.

181

00:11:19,217 --> 00:11:20,880
Why didn't you stick around for me?

182

00:11:20,880 --> 00:11:23,160
Believe it or not, that twit
of a desk clerk threatened

183

00:11:23,160 --> 00:11:27,040
to call the coppers on me for loitering.
So you got outta there before all the commotion?

184

00:11:27,040 --> 00:11:29,840
I sure as heck wasn't sticking
around for no coppers to turn up.

185

00:11:29,840 --> 00:11:33,320
He meant the thief who I chased through the
hotel after he nabbed Phillip's manuscript

186

00:11:33,320 --> 00:11:34,414
from his sister's room.

187

00:11:34,414 --> 00:11:36,753
That dumb book? Shoot.

188

00:11:36,753 --> 00:11:37,925
It ain't worth chasin' nobody.

189

00:11:37,925 --> 00:11:42,977
Maybe, but to someone, it's worth enough to steal. Have any idea who
that might be?

190

00:11:42,977 --> 00:11:45,840
Well, sure. Phillip's screwball lady friend

191
00:11:45,840 --> 00:11:49,240
thinks she can sell it. But I thought she was the one who had it last.

192
00:11:49,240 --> 00:11:52,520
She did until she had it delivered to the Mayflower this morning.

193
00:11:52,520 --> 00:11:54,290
And someone snatched it on arrival?

194
00:11:54,290 --> 00:11:57,000
Almost. Quite the coincidence.

195
00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:57,877
I'll say.

196
00:11:57,877 --> 00:12:00,000
And you don't know anything about this, I suppose?

197
00:12:00,000 --> 00:12:01,760
Nothing comes to mind.

198
00:12:01,760 --> 00:12:06,000
That's too bad. We've got a C note for some information.

199
00:12:06,000 --> 00:12:09,720
Nah, I'm not after your money. I haven't earned any right to it.

200
00:12:09,720 --> 00:12:14,718
Why don't we start with your business with Mrs. Barr this morning, and

we may just decide you've earned it?

201

00:12:14,718 --> 00:12:18,480

I thought you'd overheard me give the clerk the room number and were headed straight there yourself.

202

00:12:18,480 --> 00:12:25,360

Me, break into the Barrs' room. No sir. You got any fuckin' clue what they would do to me?

203

00:12:25,360 --> 00:12:28,440

Knocking on a hotel room door ain't breaking and entering.

204

00:12:28,440 --> 00:12:33,920

I don't take those kinds of risks. Come to speak of it, how'd you track me here anyhow?

205

00:12:33,920 --> 00:12:37,240

Your cousin wouldn't tell us much, but he suggested we try here. He wouldn't

206

00:12:37,240 --> 00:12:39,823

give up your address even for a Jackson.

207

00:12:39,823 --> 00:12:43,814

Ha, Julian's a good soul. He probably thought you were going to ruff me up or something.

208

00:12:43,814 --> 00:12:45,599

Who knows, we still might.

209

00:12:45,599 --> 00:12:49,200

Ha, no. You fellas ain't got no cause for violence.

210

00:12:49,200 --> 00:12:52,760

Where did Phillip get his dope? And we ain't talkin' reefer.

211

00:12:52,760 --> 00:13:00,080

Oh, now I see how it is. You think a guy like me, with this face, and sure, I'm the dope pusher.

212

00:13:00,080 --> 00:13:02,360

We figured you were trying to get some money Phillip owed from

213

00:13:02,360 --> 00:13:04,844

Mrs. Barr. So, if not you, who?

214

00:13:04,844 --> 00:13:07,213

You fellas have no damn clue.

215

00:13:07,213 --> 00:13:12,120

Me, tryin' steal from Mrs. Barr! Just what in the heck do you think happened to Phillip?

216

00:13:12,120 --> 00:13:17,840

We think he got hopped up one final time and fell to his death. Why? You got a different story?

217

00:13:17,840 --> 00:13:24,222

Heck yeah, I got a different story. Doggone it. I still can't believe he's dead.

218

00:13:24,222 --> 00:13:26,739

Here. Have a drink.

219

00:13:26,739 --> 00:13:30,587

Thanks. [FLASK UNSCREWED.]

220

00:13:30,587 --> 00:13:34,760

Phillip waltzed in here one night last July. It was so hot we about melted

221

00:13:34,760 --> 00:13:39,080

on stage. I watched him wander in alone from the back and work his way close to

222

00:13:39,080 --> 00:13:44,982

the stage. Those sweet innocent baby blue eyes. He bought me a cold one at our first break.

223

00:13:44,982 --> 00:13:45,977

He became a regular?

224

00:13:45,977 --> 00:13:48,417

You bet, but we became close too.

225

00:13:48,417 --> 00:13:51,080

Mrs. Barr told us Phillip spent most of his coin entertaining

226

00:13:51,080 --> 00:13:53,647

Mr. Calder Evans. She never mentioned you.

227

00:13:53,647 --> 00:13:56,080

'Cause I never let Phillip dote on me much.

228

00:13:56,080 --> 00:14:00,560

Plus, I ain't got no expensive tastes like Calder. Heck, half the joints they'd visit would let

229

00:14:00,560 --> 00:14:06,720

me through nothing but the service entrance, and even then, they'd assume I'm the help. Nah,

230

00:14:06,720 --> 00:14:10,000

Calder found himself a meal ticket with Phillip. And he knew it.

231

00:14:10,000 --> 00:14:15,240

Did you know Calder had a key to Phillip's room?

No, but I'm not surprised. Calder was obsessed

232

00:14:15,240 --> 00:14:20,920

with Phillip. You see, Calder saw Phillip as his little project. They met at that damn Theosophy

233

00:14:20,920 --> 00:14:26,560

den, but once Phillip revealed his dope troubles, Calder couldn't resist meddling in his affairs.

234

00:14:26,560 --> 00:14:30,840

What do you mean by meddling?

Testing his damned theory. How much

235

00:14:30,840 --> 00:14:32,595

of Calder's past do you know about?

236

00:14:32,595 --> 00:14:34,320

Well, we got his ghost story down.

237

00:14:34,320 --> 00:14:35,426

He told you about it?

238

00:14:35,426 --> 00:14:37,520

No, but we read his journal.

239

00:14:37,520 --> 00:14:41,920

We had it in our possession until someone stole it from my office earlier today.

240

00:14:41,920 --> 00:14:43,497

Quite a lot of thievery today.

241

00:14:43,497 --> 00:14:45,160

All related to Mr. Evans.

242

00:14:45,160 --> 00:14:50,040

He and Phillip made a perfect pair. Phillip wanted desperately to believe Calder's wild

243

00:14:50,040 --> 00:14:55,480

experience abroad. It fit square with the rest of those Theosophists' mumbo jumbo.

244

00:14:55,480 --> 00:14:57,220

The trouble was me, I suppose.

245

00:14:57,220 --> 00:14:58,760

How'd you get in the way?

246

00:14:58,760 --> 00:15:02,840

When we were at some fancy Theosophist's house for a New Years' party. There,

247

00:15:02,840 --> 00:15:08,240

for the first time, I saw Phillip down some odd tablets. When I confronted him about it later,

248

00:15:08,240 --> 00:15:12,040

he snapped at me like a crocodile. Afterward, he apologized, at some length,

249

00:15:12,040 --> 00:15:17,920

for his temper. Finally, he divulged his struggle with morph since ever his automobile accident.

250

00:15:17,920 --> 00:15:21,040

It took you six months to notice he was a hophead?

251

00:15:21,040 --> 00:15:26,960

It seems crazy now, looking back, but yeah. I just thought he was a real mellow cat. Always

252

00:15:26,960 --> 00:15:31,760

reading his books. He listened to a lot of classical radio programs. But I'd seen

253

00:15:31,760 --> 00:15:37,400

him animated before. He'd get all excited about whatever subject he was reading about. And he was

254

00:15:37,400 --> 00:15:43,960

always typin' away. He might not have had proper employment but took his writing seriously. Still,

255

00:15:43,960 --> 00:15:48,400

I never saw him snap at anyone until that party. Not under any circumstance.

256

00:15:48,400 --> 00:15:53,680

You said before you tried to help him. Well, sure. I lost an uncle to morph. Never

257

00:15:53,680 --> 00:15:59,320

saw him again after I turned six. It caused his heart to quit on him. You see, your body keeps

258

00:15:59,320 --> 00:16:06,640

a ledger with morph. You take two tabs one day it wants two or more the next. And on and on. For the

259

00:16:06,640 --> 00:16:11,360

most part, Phillip kept his habit a secret, but everyone slips up from time to time.

260

00:16:11,360 --> 00:16:13,481

He slipped too hard this last time.

261

00:16:13,481 --> 00:16:16,160

Lord almighty, ain't that the damn truth.

262

00:16:16,160 --> 00:16:22,840

Hurts like Dickens, too, just sayin' it out loud. My granddad told me he, too,

263

00:16:22,840 --> 00:16:28,960

struggled with the stuff. My gram threatened to leave him if he didn't stop, so he got sober.

264

00:16:28,960 --> 00:16:35,238

I asked him how he kicked it, and he coached me on how to help Phillip for good--but Phillip didn't believe it would work.

265

00:16:35,238 --> 00:16:36,080

Why?

266

00:16:36,080 --> 00:16:41,240

That damn Calder had him convinced the only way to kick morph was to rap with some ghost.

267

00:16:41,240 --> 00:16:42,000

What do you mean?

268

00:16:42,000 --> 00:16:48,120

Calder was convinced whatever words she'd spoken to him in Latin were what cured him. Of course,

269

00:16:48,120 --> 00:16:52,640

Phillip clued Calder in about his ghost most likely being some early Christian from North

270
00:16:52,640 --> 00:16:55,648
Africa. After that, Calder became fanatical.

271
00:16:55,648 --> 00:16:56,880
You mean with a medium?

272
00:16:56,880 --> 00:17:00,480
They tried a parade of mediums and clairvoyants. They held

273
00:17:00,480 --> 00:17:02,675
several s ances in Phillip's room, but--

274
00:17:02,675 --> 00:17:05,600
She never showed. Criminy. The fools.

275
00:17:05,600 --> 00:17:10,520
Nah. They and all their friends from that devil's den were foolin'
themselves. I kept

276
00:17:10,520 --> 00:17:15,760
my trap shut through March. I thought, what the heck? Maybe some old
spirit might come

277
00:17:15,760 --> 00:17:20,720
through and convince Phillip to get straight. I also heard morph could
make you see things,

278
00:17:20,720 --> 00:17:22,666
so maybe he would imagine the whole thing.

279
00:17:22,666 --> 00:17:24,666
And, when nothing appeared?

280
00:17:25,160 --> 00:17:30,320

I got damn tired of Calder's charade. Phillip wanted to stay the course. His whole world

281

00:17:30,320 --> 00:17:35,280

revolved around Calder's ghost coming through. I wish I would have pushed back sooner, but--

282

00:17:35,280 --> 00:17:39,360

I'm remorseful his folks didn't send me here while I could have still made a difference.

283

00:17:39,360 --> 00:17:45,280

Ah, me too, brother. Me too. Phillip needed better friends than those jackals. I got my

284

00:17:45,280 --> 00:17:49,800

way just over a week ago. I convinced him to try my grandpappy's method to quit the dope.

285

00:17:49,800 --> 00:17:51,752

Calder and Irma just went along with it?

286

00:17:51,752 --> 00:17:54,000

I threatened to rat them out to his folks if they

287

00:17:54,000 --> 00:18:00,560

got in my way. They became mighty deferential. Like they were walkin' on fuckin' eggshells.

288

00:18:00,560 --> 00:18:01,915

What was your plan?

289

00:18:01,915 --> 00:18:06,000

Ween him down to five grains and then cut him off cold turkey.

290

00:18:06,000 --> 00:18:08,000

So you were dealing?

291

00:18:08,000 --> 00:18:13,320

Heck no. I told you so. Calder kept the supply comin'. He knew

292

00:18:13,320 --> 00:18:17,760

all sorts of tricks to keep our hopheadin business. He's a sinister son of a bitch.

293

00:18:17,760 --> 00:18:19,537

So, Calder was dealing?

294

00:18:19,537 --> 00:18:28,440

He was supplying. They might as well have opened a joint bank account. Calder made the dope appear, and Phillip kept picking up their tabs.

295

00:18:28,440 --> 00:18:30,960

I thought Calder made a living as a sign painter?

296

00:18:30,960 --> 00:18:34,560

Is that what it was this time? Since I've known him, the bastard couldn't

297

00:18:34,560 --> 00:18:38,520

keep a steady job. Suppose he didn't need one, though, after he met Phillip.

298

00:18:38,520 --> 00:18:42,240

You saying Phillip made him a kept man? Calder's at least ten years older.

299

00:18:42,240 --> 00:18:48,360

Nah. It wasn't like that. Phillip was more like Calder's patron with a fat pocketbook.

300

00:18:48,360 --> 00:18:50,921

Lilah suspected they were romantically involved.

301

00:18:50,921 --> 00:18:55,046

As close as they were, I can see how she may have gained that impression.

302

00:18:55,046 --> 00:18:58,400

Who knows, maybe Calder even had feelings for Phillip.

303

00:18:58,400 --> 00:18:59,103

And Phillip?

304

00:18:59,103 --> 00:19:03,611

Nope. As far as I know. Unrequited as a bee sting.

305

00:19:03,611 --> 00:19:05,611

Interesting.

306

00:19:05,920 --> 00:19:08,336

Obviously, your granddad's cure didn't take.

307

00:19:08,336 --> 00:19:12,245

Oh, I wouldn't say that. The first day was alright.

308

00:19:12,245 --> 00:19:16,800

When Phillip still bought the idea his sugar bindles were loaded with morph. Then he

309

00:19:16,800 --> 00:19:23,200

started to yawn uncontrollably, which is when he knew the last grain was out of his skin. Phillip

310

00:19:23,200 --> 00:19:28,520

was too brilliant for his own good. Convinced his jaw would crack, which I heard happens to

311

00:19:28,520 --> 00:19:32,125

folks--well, fear made him suffer even more.

312

00:19:32,125 --> 00:19:36,000

I hear most morphine addicts fear their initial pain will return.

313

00:19:36,000 --> 00:19:43,760

Right. For men that start morph due to a nasty injury like Phillip's, I imagine the memory of pain is what hooks them from the jump.

314

00:19:43,760 --> 00:19:50,760

Then the tough part came: the waiting. A few days in, Phillip was just a shivering pool of sweat.

315

00:19:50,760 --> 00:19:52,202

That's when the jackals descended.

316

00:19:52,202 --> 00:19:53,680

Irma and Calder?

317

00:19:53,680 --> 00:19:59,280

Yup. Irma barged in, demanding I allow her to try and sell Phillip's manuscript. She didn't

318

00:19:59,280 --> 00:20:03,040

seem to appreciate Phillip's condition. And she didn't let it deter her either.

319

00:20:03,040 --> 00:20:05,069

So you let her leave with Phillip's manuscript?

320

00:20:05,069 --> 00:20:08,240

Sure. I can't say I much care for her, but I think

321

00:20:08,240 --> 00:20:13,000

she had Phillip's best interests at heart. They shared a common belief in all that nutty shit.

322

00:20:13,000 --> 00:20:18,454

Irma sent a telegram this past Monday. Wanted Phillip to ring her back. Holding package, it read.

323

00:20:18,454 --> 00:20:20,240

Monday was the last day of Phillip's

324

00:20:20,240 --> 00:20:25,760

withdrawal. He'd offered to buy me a Packard car for two grains of morph by that point. I

325

00:20:25,760 --> 00:20:27,568

didn't bother him with Irma's telegram.

326

00:20:27,568 --> 00:20:30,147

So, she wasn't lying about him failing to call her back?

327

00:20:30,147 --> 00:20:33,528

No, Phillip never came near his desk for seven days.

328

00:20:33,528 --> 00:20:36,000

And, on the eighth, let's see, that would be Tuesday?

329

00:20:36,000 --> 00:20:38,000

Lemme see that flask again.

330

00:20:38,000 --> 00:20:44,077

Certainly. [UNSCREW AND GULP]

331

00:20:44,077 --> 00:20:45,993
You probably think I'm a lush.

332
00:20:45,993 --> 00:20:48,641
Not in the least. We understand this is difficult.

333
00:20:48,641 --> 00:20:51,200
Yeah, you can say that again. When I got

334
00:20:51,200 --> 00:20:56,760
Phillip to eat a little something on Monday night,
he'd lost the whimper in his voice. I knew he was

335
00:20:56,760 --> 00:21:03,680
almost back to the living. The last thing he told
me, staring up with those baby blue eyes filled

336
00:21:03,680 --> 00:21:07,297
with tears, he said, "I've won, haven't I?"

337
00:21:07,297 --> 00:21:10,160
Wait, you're saying he kicked the stuff?

338
00:21:10,160 --> 00:21:15,327
Hand to God, if I hadn't left early Tuesday morning, I'm sure he would
have been a changed man.

339
00:21:15,327 --> 00:21:16,789
Why'd you leave?

340
00:21:18,760 --> 00:21:25,840
It's hard to explain. During the night, Phillip
began to mumble all sorts of nut gibberish. Kept

341
00:21:25,840 --> 00:21:32,440
sayin' She's here. She's here. I tried to wake
him, but he was entranced. I dozed off at one

342

00:21:32,440 --> 00:21:38,600

point, and for an instant, I swear I saw a figure standing over just looking at him.

343

00:21:38,600 --> 00:21:40,080

What kind of a figure?

DEEP BASS.

344

00:21:40,080 --> 00:21:46,960

It was dark, so I could see just its contours.

It looked like a mass of ink swirled into human

345

00:21:46,960 --> 00:21:52,760

form. It vanished just as quickly as I'd seen it.

And the next thing I knew, I heard that bastard

346

00:21:52,760 --> 00:21:58,120

Calder's keys rumbling around. He came through the

door and started spouting off some dumb shit to

347

00:21:58,120 --> 00:22:00,435

Phillip, like Don't give up the ship.

348

00:22:00,435 --> 00:22:02,435

What an ass.

349

00:22:02,960 --> 00:22:06,360

The last thing on Earth I wanted was to leave Calder alone with

Phillip,

350

00:22:06,360 --> 00:22:11,532

but I was startled by what I'd experienced. And,

I didn't dare explain it to that son'bitch.

351

00:22:11,532 --> 00:22:17,840

So, I told him the truth. I'd been having a rough time sleeping and needed to rest up for my gig

352

00:22:17,840 --> 00:22:19,187
later that night in Georgetown.

353

00:22:19,187 --> 00:22:20,480
So you just left him there?

354

00:22:20,480 --> 00:22:26,080
Hey, calm it down. You said you were apprehensive about leaving Phillip with Calder. Why?

355

00:22:26,080 --> 00:22:31,440
Part of me suspected Calder never wished Phillip to get better. I can't prove anything,

356

00:22:31,440 --> 00:22:35,840
but it was just a feeling when he came around toward the end, just when things started to

357

00:22:35,840 --> 00:22:41,200
look bright. All I know is that's the last time I ever saw Phillip alive.

358

00:22:41,200 --> 00:22:42,306
And, you went where after?

359

00:22:42,306 --> 00:22:44,800
I'm lodging at the Twelfth Street Y.M.C.A.

360

00:22:44,800 --> 00:22:45,925
You got an alibi?

361

00:22:45,925 --> 00:22:47,925

In spades, friend.

362

00:22:48,080 --> 00:22:51,921

We found an old field medic's treatment tin in Phillip's room. Have you ever laid eyes on it before?

363

00:22:51,921 --> 00:22:54,920

From the war? Never.

364

00:22:54,920 --> 00:22:59,520

Don't those contain morphine vials?

This one might of, but that's what was missing.

365

00:22:59,520 --> 00:23:02,640

Do you mean to tell me that's what Phillip was on when he fell?

366

00:23:02,640 --> 00:23:06,680

That's our best guess. Irma says she found him wandering around Connecticut Avenue and coaxed

367

00:23:06,680 --> 00:23:09,040

him back to her parents' house.

368

00:23:09,040 --> 00:23:14,160

Alright, guys, pick another number that'll let Barry shine! I'll be in to play the Duke's Solitude!

369

00:23:14,160 --> 00:23:15,144

Nice choice.

370

00:23:15,144 --> 00:23:16,560

You a jazz fan?

371

00:23:16,560 --> 00:23:19,840

I never heard a tune from Mr. Ellington I didn't like.

372

00:23:19,840 --> 00:23:23,440

There's just one thing that doesn't add up for me. I don't see why you'd

373

00:23:23,440 --> 00:23:25,097

go to all that trouble for Phillip?

374

00:23:25,097 --> 00:23:27,097

You think I haven't been playin' the saddest

375

00:23:27,097 --> 00:23:36,760

songs I know since I read Thursday's paper? Ah, and before I forget. Give this to Lilah for me.

376

00:23:36,760 --> 00:23:38,112

What's this?

377

00:23:40,360 --> 00:23:42,153

It's an annulet. Been in their families for generations.

378

00:23:42,153 --> 00:23:43,600

And he gave it to you?

379

00:23:43,600 --> 00:23:47,600

Just for safekeeping while we tried to get him on the straight and narrow. Oh,

380

00:23:47,600 --> 00:23:53,640

Oh, and I see from your faces. You don't get it at all. You see, I was dizzy with him.

381

00:23:53,640 --> 00:23:54,960

You?

382

00:23:54,960 --> 00:23:59,520

We were never meant to be, he and I. He dreamed big of a world different from the

383

00:23:59,520 --> 00:24:05,240

one we're livin', but then he was hopped up on morph most of our time together.

384

00:24:05,240 --> 00:24:08,560

That doesn't matter.

It doesn't have to. I can

385

00:24:08,560 --> 00:24:13,280

just imagine pulling into Steeplesville with the Prince of Zeugma. Daddy Steeples might have had

386

00:24:13,280 --> 00:24:15,094

a stroke right then and there.

387

00:24:15,094 --> 00:24:17,094

I guess we'll never know.

388

00:24:17,280 --> 00:24:21,440

Still, I feel lucky for the times we were able to steal away together.

389

00:24:21,440 --> 00:24:27,120

I'll see that she gets the annulet. And Abe. He was lucky to find you,

390

00:24:27,120 --> 00:24:29,705

even if it ended too fast.

391

00:24:29,705 --> 00:24:35,680

Here's my card. Stop by anytime. Sorry for your loss.

392

00:24:35,680 --> 00:24:40,700

Here, we promised you a C note. Take it.

[THE STAGE DOOR OPENS] [MAN WHISTLES]

393

00:24:40,700 --> 00:24:47,770

Alright, fellas. It looks like we're on again. Keep your coin.

Besides, what'd all that Steeples dough do for Phillip?

394

00:24:48,000 --> 00:24:52,400

One last thing. Any clue where we can find Calder? He gave us a dummy address.

395

00:24:52,400 --> 00:24:56,240

Try the Cairo. With Phillip gone, it's the closest he's ever gotten to seeing

396

00:24:56,240 --> 00:25:01,217

his specter again. Somethin' tells me he ain't yet quit his wild ghost chase.

397

00:25:03,735 --> 00:25:17,457

[BIG THUNDERCLAP] [RAIN DOWNPOUR] [Thunder]

398

00:25:22,195 --> 00:25:35,431

[MUSIC: AT THE CORNER OF 16TH AND Q
OUR FLAME WAS BURNING BRIGHT AND NEW
I WAS ON MY OWN SINGING THE BLUES
UNTIL ALL ROADS LED ME RIGHT TO YOU]

399

00:25:35,431 --> 00:25:49,347

[MUSIC: YOU'RE SOMEONE'S SON
YOU'RE SOMEONE'S LIGHT]

BUT FOR TONIGHT
YOU ARE MINE]

400

00:25:49,347 --> 00:26:02,863

[MUSIC: I NEVER THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD MEND YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE
AGAIN

IT'S YOU AND ME UNTIL THE END
OH, WE'LL PAINT THIS WHOLE TOWN RED]

401

00:26:02,863 --> 00:26:23,245

[MUSIC: JUST THE DEVILS

OH

THE DEVILS OF DUPONT
JUST THE DEVILS

OH

THE DEVILS OF DUPONT
JUST THE DEVILS
THE DEVILS OF DUPONT]

402

00:26:24,569 --> 00:26:38,115

[MUSIC: WE SPEND ALL OF OUR NIGHTS WITH THE BAND
TIME SLIPPING THROUGH OUR FINGERS LIKE SAND
IN THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE THAT WE PLANNED
I'D BE FOREVER HOLDING YOUR HAND]

403

00:26:38,115 --> 00:26:52,400

[MUSIC: YOU'RE SOMEONE'S SON
YOU'RE SOMEONE'S LIGHT
BUT FOR TONIGHT
YOU ARE MINE]

404

00:26:52,400 --> 00:27:05,608

[MUSIC: I NEVER THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD MEND YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE
AGAIN

IT'S YOU AND ME UNTIL THE END
OH, WE'LL PAINT THIS WHOLE TOWN RED]

405

00:27:05,608 --> 00:27:25,374

[MUSIC: JUST THE DEVILS

OH

THE DEVILS OF DUPONT
JUST THE DEVILS

OH

THE DEVILS OF DUPONT

JUST THE DEVILS
THE DEVILS OF DUPONT]

406

00:27:27,160 --> 00:27:54,953

[MUSIC: THE CONVERSATIONS WE NEVER HAD
WOULD THEY HAVE STOPPED YOU FROM GOING MAD?
WE HAD GLORY IN OUR EYES
BUT YOU KEPT CLIMBING CLIMBING SO HIGH
OH
OH]

407

00:27:54,953 --> 00:28:08,499

[MUSIC: I NEVER THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD MEND
(JUST THE DEVILS)
YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE AGAIN
(JUST THE DEVILS)
IT'S YOU AND ME UNTIL THE END
(JUST THE DEVILS)
OH, WE'LL PAINT THIS WHOLE TOWN RED]

408

00:28:08,499 --> 00:28:35,777

[MUSIC: JUST THE DEVILS
OH
THE DEVILS OF DUPONT
JUST THE DEVILS
OH
THE DEVILS OF DUPONT
JUST THE DEVILS
THE DEVILS OF DUPONT]

409

00:28:38,120 --> 00:28:43,440

Dupont Investigations is written by Marc
Benjamin Langston and directed, edited,

410

00:28:43,440 --> 00:28:48,640

and sound-designed by? Bryce Bowyn.
Keep your ears in the 1930s by becoming

411

00:28:48,640 --> 00:28:54,960

a DUPONT INVESTIGATOR. Access our private
discord server "The Inside Scoop" or explore

412

00:28:54,960 --> 00:29:01,960

Torsten Somersby's recovered case file by
visiting nocturnehall.com/investigator

413

00:29:01,960 --> 00:29:07,440
With SPECIAL THANKS to Kay-Leigh Sulecki,
N.P., and Matthew Sulecki, M.D.

414

00:29:07,440 --> 00:29:12,120
Dupont Investigations: The Scourge
from Carthage Part 5 features

415

00:29:12,120 --> 00:29:16,640
Ruth Browne as LILAH BARR
Jacob Lowman as NIGEL CLEMMONS

416

00:29:16,640 --> 00:29:22,520
Marc Benjamin Langston as TORSTEN SOMERSBY
Kenneth Patterson as CORNELIUS STEEPLES

417

00:29:22,520 --> 00:29:28,840
AND Claxton Rabb the Third as ABE RHODES
The Original theme song, Devils of Dupont,

418

00:29:28,840 --> 00:29:33,360
written and performed by Bryce Bowyn, is
available wherever you stream music.

419

00:29:33,360 --> 00:29:39,240
For individuals and families facing mental health
or substance use disorders in the United States,

420

00:29:39,240 --> 00:29:45,960
listeners can call the free, confidential
National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP. That?s

421

00:29:45,960 --> 00:29:50,193
1-800-662-H-E-L-P.